

games from 2018–2020, winning two, but this season the program's success was historic for Tulane. Coach Fritz and the team made their mark first by winning Tulane's first-ever American Athletic Conference Championship after beating the University of Central Florida. The team then not only won the program's first Cotton Bowl, but did so in heroic fashion by coming from behind 28–14 at halftime and scoring 16 points in the final 5 minutes to beat USC and Heisman winner Caleb Williams by a final of 46–45. The team finished the season ranked No. 9 in both the coaches and AP polls at the end of the year. Following a 2–10 season in 2021 in which Tulane lost 17 players to season-ending injuries and were forced to play two of their home games on the road due to damage from Hurricane Ida, the 10-win increase marks the greatest turnaround in college football history.

The success for Tulane's football program didn't stop on the field though. This year alone, the team had 46 players receive Academic All-AAC honors and holds an 87 percent graduation rate. Both are true signs of the high standards that Coach Fritz certainly holds his team to.

For as much success as the team has had, I would be remiss not to mention a few of Coach Fritz's individual achievements. After the Cotton Bowl victory, Coach Fritz now has the most bowl appearances ever by a Tulane coach and now boasts a 236–119–1 career record. He was also awarded both the Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Foundation's 2022 Dodd Trophy and the George Munger College Coach of the year award. He is deserving of all these accolades and has also been recognized for his efforts on giving back and making a positive impact in the New Orleans community.

The only blemish on Coach Fritz's resume is that he had beat my alma mater, Kansas State, in Manhattan, KS, this season. Since he is a Kansan, I am willing to look past that one. I now ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach Fritz on an incredible season at Tulane. May he see continued success throughout his career.●

TRIBUTE TO DAWN SMITH

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize U.S. Air Force veteran Master Sergeant Dawn Smith of Notasulga. Sergeant Smith joined the Air Force immediately after graduating high school when a recruitment poster caught her mom's eye. Once she learned about the opportunities available to her through military service, Sergeant Smith felt that it was the right path for her.

Sergeant Smith was stationed at several posts during her 20-year career. She started as a missile maintainer, but retrained as an eyecare technician. As a tribute to her dedicated work ethic, she was selected as a non-

commissioned officer academy instructor. Even though the military isn't a traditional, 4-year educational route, she described it as a "continuing education" experience.

After she retired from the military, Sergeant Smith started a cattle operation named Lone Oak Farm with her husband Tim, who also served in the Air Force for 23 years. She credits the "no-fail" mentality learned in the military for helping her succeed as a first-time farmer. The Smiths have grown their operation from 2 cows to 35, and now, they sell fresh beef to families across Alabama.

Sergeant Smith is truly a "lifelong learner" who is always willing to share her knowledge and experiences with others. That is why she is proud to be a 4-H agent assistant for the Tallapoosa County School System, where she teaches ag-related skills to more than 1,000 fourth, fifth, and sixth graders each month. And twice a year, she works with high schoolers, helping them learn how to work with their hands and grow their own produce.

Now, Sergeant Smith helps develop new curriculums for students, including a "Respect for the Flag" lesson that teaches the American flag's history, meaning, and how to properly care for it. Sergeant Smith credits the military for giving her greater awareness and compassion for the needs of others around the world. She went to Guatemala for the first time on a medical mission while in the service, which inspired her and her husband to continue mission trips to Guatemala and Alaska after their retirement.

Alabama is grateful for Sergeant Smith's service and proud to recognize her for the February veteran of the Month.●

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON FEBRUARY 7, 2023—PM 1

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was which was ordered to lie on the table:

To the Congress of the United States:

Mr. Speaker. Madam Vice President. Our First Lady and Second Gentleman. Members of Congress and the Cabinet. Leaders of our military. Mr. Chief Justice, Associate Justices, and retired Justices of the Supreme Court. And you, my fellow Americans.

I start tonight by congratulating the members of the 118th Congress and the new Speaker of the House, KEVIN MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working together.

I also want to congratulate the new leader of the House Democrats and the first Black House Minority Leader in history, HAKEEM JEFFRIES.

Congratulations to the longest serving Senate leader in history, MITCH MCCONNELL.

And congratulations to CHUCK SCHUMER for another term as Senate Majority Leader, this time with an even bigger majority.

And I want to give special recognition to someone who I think will be considered the greatest Speaker in the history of this country, NANCY PELOSI.

The story of America is a story of progress and resilience. Of always moving forward. Of never giving up. A story that is unique among all nations.

We are the only country that has emerged from every crisis stronger than when we entered it. That is what we are doing again.

Two years ago, our economy was reeling. As I stand here tonight—we have created a record 12 million new jobs—more jobs created in 2 years than any President has ever created in 4 years.

Two years ago, COVID had shut down our businesses, closed our schools and robbed us of so much. Today, COVID no longer controls our lives.

And 2 years ago, our democracy faced its greatest threat since the civil War. Today—though bruised—our democracy remains unbowed and unbroken.

As we gather here tonight—we are writing the next chapter in the great American story—a story of progress and resilience. When world leaders ask me to define America—I define our country in one word—Possibilities.

You know, we're often told that Democrats and Republicans can't work together. But over these past 2 years we proved the cynics and the naysayers wrong. Yes, we disagreed plenty. And yes, there were times when Democrats had to go it alone.

But time and again, Democrats and Republicans came together. Came together to defend a stronger and safer Europe. Came together to pass a once-in-a-generation infrastructure law—building bridges to connect our Nation and people. Came together to pass one of the most significant laws ever—helping veterans exposed to toxic burn pits.

In fact—I signed over 300 bipartisan laws since becoming President—from reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act to the Electoral Count Reform Act to the Respect For Marriage Act—that protects the right to marry the person you love.

To my Republican friends—if we could work together in the last Congress—there is no reason we can't work together in this new Congress. The people sent us a clear message.

Fighting for the sake of fighting—power for the sake of power—conflict for the sake of conflict—gets us nowhere.

And that's always been my vision for our country. To restore the soul of the Nation. To rebuild the backbone of America—the middle class. To unite the country. We've been sent here to—finish the job!

For decades the middle class was hollowed out. Too many good-paying